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# ❖ Sweetland/Swetland Lore #12 ❖

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(Formerly Swetland Lore)

October 1999

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## Swetland Homestead in Wyoming, PA Undergoes Renovation

**Mary Bishop** has sent clippings from The Times Leader of Wilkes-Barre, PA from the September 15 and 17, 1999 issues.

This historic home in a New England style was built on property bought by Luke Swetland in 1796. The first part of house was built by Luke's son, Belding, about 1803.

A summer kitchen and woodshed were added by 1815. About 1818 a second story over a parlor and dining room added two bedrooms.

About 1830 another addition was a kitchen which accommodated a coal-burning stove. By this date William Swetland, Belding's son, lived in the home. This addition connected the summer kitchen and woodshed with the rest of the house.

At some later date a veranda was added to the front of the house, as we saw it on the occasions we have visited there.

The renovators have selected the 1830 period as the basis for work. This means the veranda is now gone and will not be replaced. The project calls for work to finish by December 15th to permit opening the house for use during the Christmas celebrations.

Every effort is being made to recreate the the historic quality and fabric of the house. When next you see it, it will be as it was in 1830.

The Swetland Homestead hosted a Harvest Festival in September with traditional crafts, an

apple pie contest, a Civil War enactment, musical entertainment, artwork, a coal mining exhibit and refreshments. If anyone attended the Festival, please send us a report for use in a later newsletter.

The renovation, estimated to cost over \$200,000, was funded by donations, most of which came from a major anonymous donation.

*Be sure to read page 4. Margaret Smith gives a report on the 1999 reunion held in Chautauqua, NY.*

*Fill in and mail the form at the bottom of page 4 to Robin now.*

### Swetland Scholarship

The Swetland scholarship will be awarded in 2000. Reunion minutes gave the names of those who are handling the selection. Make sure that your relatives know about the scholarship and apply no later than early 2000. Send to Bill Noyes, 3301-926 Shellers Bend, State College, PA 16801-4236.

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## Potter County, PA Courthouse Visit

On our return from the reunion in Chautauqua, NY, we went through Coudersport, county seat for Potter County, on the way to visit Gladys Swetland in Mills, PA. She still lives alone at the age of 107 although she is not able to get around well. Her mind is sharp and we had a delightful although too short visit.

We went back to Coudersport for the night and next morning stopped at the county courthouse for as long as I could then stand on my feet. It is difficult to find a place to sit and work at the courthouse.

In an hour and a half, I managed to go through some eight or so books of deeds. I was looking for the earliest deeds given to Gladys's father, Chester A. Swetland. Chester was a partner with George A. Walter in the lumbering business. The property was first owned by the business until Walter died and Chester bought out the balance of his share from the estate. I have sent the data to Gladys.

Next I wanted to know when my great-great-grandfather, Harmon Swetland, first bought land in Potter County. I discovered that he bought his first lot March 3, 1866. His son, Austin A. Swetland, bought a house and lot in Harrison Valley on March 11, 1867. Austin and his son, Roger, my grandfather bought a lot on March 30, 1883 and again on December 30, 1886. Time did not permit further research.

# SFA 2001 Reunion

Hazel Corbin

Now is the time to plan the next reunion. Many will say that this is too far away to think about it. Not so! We need to fix the date at least a year in advance to give us flexibility in selecting the town and motel or hotel for the reunion.

Read about our 1999 reunion on page 4. Since then, I have learned of 13 who did not come because of conflict with a June date and four more who thought the place was too far away. This means 17 others might have joined us with a later date and closer place. Our July reunions recently have had over 60 attend.

Robin Leidhecker has agreed to serve as reunion chair once more. The choice of date and location should not be left to one person to satisfy some other 60 or more people. You have a chance now to give Robin input that will make the decisions easier.

What's an ideal date for us? Experience indicates that the last two weekends of July are best. We had chosen the fourth weekend of July until we found that the Shadowbrook in Tunkhannock was always taken the fourth weekend so we moved it to the third weekend. I propose that we choose now to pick the fourth weekend for the year 2001. Let Robin know if you have other thoughts but let her have them

Where should we meet in 2001? Experience again indicates that it should be in the eastern part of the USA. We had success in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York. Connecticut should be equally good. Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware may be equally good. Rhode Island did not to be seem as good though this may have been due to choosing

a city rather than a smaller town. For the year 2001 please give Robin your thoughts on where we should meet. Your input will make her job less strain. We could choose Wilkes-Barre, PA but the Gennetti Inn has so many wedding receptions that we would have to commit over a year in advance. Help Robin now!

Send Robin your thoughts now so that we do not wait too long to plan another great reunion. Our next reunion can be the best ever with your help and planning.

You must not think that you have no influence on the plans. Act now to be sure your thoughts reach

*.Now is the time to plan the next reunion! Many will say this is too far away to think about it. Not so!*

us in time for full consideration. Act and write now!

A dear lady, Hazel Corbin, wrote me often from February 16, 1987 until she answered my letter of July 23, 1987 in August of that year. Her last letter has the words, "To make a long story short, was sorting over family history stuff to give to the Erie Historical Society." Later she wrote that "Can't give you all I got on Whitneys. If I counted right, I have around 672 pages or charts."

Yes, Hazel is in Doug's big book. You can find her on page 7 under her maiden name of Emory, born March 23 , 1904. Since she has not written since, I assume she has died..

Hazel provided all I have ever learned about the descendants of Sarah Swetland, daughter of William and Agnes of Salem, MA. Through her Doug's book includes many more descendants of these two puzzling people. Puzzling surely describes two people, neither of whom left death records we can locate. Also Agnes's marriage to Simon Lovett is not recorded, only their children.

## A Bruce Mystery

Do yo have any **Bruce** ancestors?This is the surname **Bruce**. In Roger Swetland's papers (my grandfather) are three handwritten pages. The handwriting seems to be my grandfather's. In alphabetical order Bruce men are listed from Abijah to Timothy.

All of these men appear to have served in the Revolutionary War.For all of the men he gives their year of enlistment and for most all their birth year and death year. He gives the names of spouse and children for many. He also names the people who contacted him. Inquiry dates range from 1895 to 1901.

If you know of anyone interested in the Bruce line. let me know and I will send a copy of these three pages to them.

At present I can fnd no Bruces among my ancestors or the any collateral lines. What could have been the reason for this reearch. The list includes Abijah, Benjamin, Jesse, Jonas, Joseph, Jotham, Lewis, Reuben,Silas, Simon and Timothy. Until I learn more, I am keeping these old pages.

# Georgianna Swetland

Those who attended the reunion at Chautauqua were able to meet **Wayne C. Myers**, the grandson of Georgianna Swetland, a descendant of Theophilus Swetland. This makes her also a descendant of his father, Israel Swetland.

Wayne had sent me a chart showing her ancestry back to Theophilus. With the help of Doug's book, *The Swetland/Sweetland/Sweatland Family in America 1676-1997*, much more was learned of her Swetland ancestry. At first she did not seem to appear in the book. A spelling difference made her hard to find. Further look showed her listed as Georgia Swetland. Since Wayne knew his grandmother and was 14 years old when she died, it is safe to believe that she was named Georgianna, not Georgia.

Georgianna's ancestry back to Israel is unusual. She is descended from two of Israel Swetland's sons, Joseph and Theophilus. She is also descended from two of Theophilus's sons, Eleazar and Ira.

Georgianna's parents were George Swetland and Jane M. Swetland. Jane M. Swetland was the daughter of Palta Swetland and Mariah N. Swetland. Yes, that's true! The surname at birth of all four of them was Swetland. She had two direct lines back to Israel, one of which with a side track in the ancestry.

Georgianna is then the great-great-granddaughter of Israel through her father, George, and also through her mother, Jane, and Jane's father, Palta

Through her mother Jane and Jane's mother, Mariah N., Georgianna is the great-great-great-granddaughter of Israel.

Georgianna's parents, George and Jane M., were third cousins. Jane's parents, Palta and Mariah, were first cousins, once removed. A relationship chart was essential to determine this relationship. If you wish to check this in Doug's book, mentioned above, the listing is:

Israel, p. 63, b. 1/12/1736  
Theophilus, p. 64, b. 1/17/1757  
Joseph, p. 109, b. before 1768  
Ira, p. 64, b. 11/23/1780  
Eleazar, p. 73, b. 5/20/1749  
Palta, p. 110, b. 4/4/1801  
Mariah N., p. 64, b. 4/17/1804  
George, p. 84, b. 4/26/1836  
Jane M., p. 112, b. 2/21/1839  
Georgianna, p. 84, b. 3/9/1863

Georgianna married James Louis Myers on June 6, 1881, Wayne's father,

Georgianna died in 1944. Wayne's father, Leroy Louis Myers, was born in 1903 and Wayne in 1930.

Knowing this one can trace Wayne, Georgianna, and Israel back to Isaac Sweetland of England.

Doug's book is a wonderful tool

in tracing families. Yes, it may have a few errors but the work is of great help to any family researcher. With the help of all who read this, these errors will be eliminated from the next version. At the reunion, all were asked to send their corrections and additions to Mark W. Swetland, 13 Raymond Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-4526. He has taken a second copy of the book to enter all changes of all kinds. Please send them to me now!

**Swetland Family Treasury**

Donations at the reunion produced an addition to the treasury thanks to those who were at Chautauqua. Anyone wishing to donate now may send their contribution to Priscilla Swetland, R D 4, Box 121A, Montrose, PA, 18801. Make checks payable to the Swetland Family Association.

Donations may be directed to the general fund, to the scholarship fund, or both. The general fund pays the all costs of the newsletter

As yet your newsletter editor

## Partial Genealogy of the Swetland Family 1676-1908

This booklet by Dr. B. S. Swetland has long been out of print and unavailable to most of us. Robin Leidhecker and Margaret Smith have arranged to make a photocopy of the booklet for everyone interested at a cost of \$10.00, including an every name index of the booklet. Robin also offers to send for \$3.00 a copy of the every name index to those fortunate to have a copy of the original booklet. These costs include a binding for the booklet.

The every name index is quite useful as it shows alphabetically by surname all of the people who are mentioned in the booklet and the page number on which they show. If you have ever looked for someone, you will recognize the importance of this index.

Robin's address for those ordering copies is 1380 Radio Club Road, Montoursville, PA, 17754. Prices include postage. This is an opportunity to obtain a copy easily at a reasonable cost. Be sure to take advantage of her offer now.

# 1999 SFA Reunion at Chautauqua, NY

## Look Forward to Reunion 2001

or Look what you missed!

Sweetland/Swetland Reunion June 11-12, 1999 at Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY, was very successful.

The accommodations in modern condos within the historic Victorian St. Elmo Hotel were grand. The setting amidst neat flower beds, big shade trees and historic houses was restful and lovely to look at

Our two hour boat ride on Lake Chautauqua Friday evening afforded a cooling ride, green scenery and a chance to meet "cousins" while partaking of a delicious buffet. The chef carved to your order from a large roast beef.

Saturday a continental breakfast started the day. The programs were informational, timely and kept to schedule. Exhibits were shown and explained by Sweetlands/Swetlands bringing them. Our informal business meeting moved along. Officers for the next two years are:

President	Margaret Smith
Vice-President	Bob Sweatland
Secretary	(open)
Treasurer	Priscilla Swetland
Reunion Chair	Robin Leidhecker
Scholarship Fund	Chair - Bill Noyes
	- Eleanor Sweetland
	- Dr. Norman Bowers

A web page was suggested, chair, Doug Sweetland, assisted by Adam Leidhecker. Our next reunion will be held in 2001, place yet undecided.

Was the reunion worth coming to? Here are some comments:

Norman and Mary Bowers: *This was a reunion which came up to our expectations of what a reunion can and should be. Presentations were informative, well organized and helpful. The day was well worth the effort put forth. We were very glad the schedule was adhered to also.*

Ted Sweetland: *Eleanor and I want to thank you for your work on our recent reunion. It was appreciated and we realize how meticulous you were in its preparation.*

SEE what you missed!!!

Sincerely,  
Margaret Smith

Please fill out the following form, clip it and send it to: Robin Leidhecker, 1380 Radio Club Road, Montoursville, PA 17754.

### REUNION 2001

I would like to see at the reunion in 2001:

Location_____	Dates preferred_____
Type of program_____	Activities for Families_____
Cost range_____	Other activities: boat ride, golf game. play, concert,
Name_____	your ideas?_____
Address_____	_____
City, state, zip code_____	Telephone number_____